

In reply, please refer to SHPO-2000-1924 (2284)

August 31, 2000

John Holt, Environmental Manager Western Area Power Administration (Western) Desert Southwest Customer Service Region Post Office Box 6457 Phoenix, Arizona 85005-6457

Jane Dee Hull Governor

RE: Wisvest Power Plant and Natural Gas Pipeline

State Parks Board Members

Dear Mr. Holt:

Chair Vernon Roudebush Safford

Walter D. Armer, Jr. Benson

> Suzanne Pfister Phoenix

Joseph H. Holmwood Mesa

> John U. Hays Yarnell

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Director's Office Fax: 602.542.4188 Thank you for initiating consultation with this office regarding the above-mentioned federal undertaking. The undertaking entails the construction of a natural-gas-powered electrical generation facility, a subsurface gas pipeline, and an interconnection with Western's existing transmission lines. The natural gas pipeline apparently connects to an existing pipeline just south of Ehrenburg, in La Paz County, Arizona; the remainder of the project occurs in California. Western is the lead federal agency. I have reviewed the documents submitted and offer the following comments on the portion of the undertaking located in Arizona pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as implemented by 36 C.F.R. 800; this office lacks the authority to comment on the California portion of the undertaking.

Based on the information provided, the area of potential effect (APE) that you defined appears to be appropriate. I understand the APE may changed as the planning process for this undertaking continues.

We look forward to receiving a letter regarding your efforts to identify historic properties within the APE and your finding of project effect. If no historic properties are identified, and Indian tribes do not express concerns about traditional cultural places, within the Arizona portion of the APE, this office will likely decline to participate in an agreement document.

We appreciate your cooperation with this office in considering the impacts of federal undertakings on important cultural resources situated in Arizona pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act. If you have any questions, please contact me at (602) 542-7137 or electronically via mbilsbarrow@pr.state.az.us.

Sincerely,

Matthew H. Bilsbarrow, RPA

Compliance Specialist/ Archaeologist State Historic Preservation Office

Carolina Company